

height of about 32 feet, are the clerestory windows of two lights, with Perpendicular tracery. The total height, to wall plate, is 42 feet 6 inches; to ridge, 58 feet. The roof of nave consists of open timber work, with moulded ribs in three thicknesses, and having framed trusses resting on moulded corbels 10 feet 2 inches deep, at distances of 16 feet, and immediately central over piers: the purlins are moulded on one side. In the spandrels of the trusses is Gothic tracery. The roofs of aisles are also open, and are composed of framed trusses, with a cross strut and tracery in the spandrels. The west elevation will face Meath-street; and the expenditure incurred in the erection of the church will probably be about 8,000*l.* or 9,000*l.* Mr. McCarthy is the architect.

A new bank is to be erected at Cookstown, according to designs by Mr. Jackson, architect, Belfast. The front will be in the Grecian style, and of cut stone.

New schools are to be erected at Pallas-green, for which the necessary drawings have been furnished by Mr. James Pain, architect.

The directors of the Killarney Junction Railway intend lighting the town with gas.

A Presbyterian church is in progress of erection in Antrim.

The Waterford Chamber of Commerce and union guardians have held a meeting lately, which was numerously attended, for the purpose of taking steps towards the establishment of a beet sugar factory near the town. Mr. Sproule attended, on the part of the company, and gave all the requisite information respecting the growth of beet sugar. The proposed outlay is 10,000*l.* The factory at Mountmellick cost upwards of 8,000*l.*

Messrs. Ormond and Meade have been declared contractors for the works, to be executed at the Cork Corn Exchange, in preparation for the Munster exhibition.

THE DOMESTIC USE OF GAS.

Sir,—Upon reading the article, "British Pyrotechnic Fire," in No. 478 of your scientific yet amusing periodical, I was struck with the idea that it would uproot the monopoly in coals, and that Wallsend of every description would no longer be a precious commodity. Gas in every poor man's room was vividly before my eyes. Upon ruminating, however, as I am wont to do, upon improbable schemes, I bethought myself that, "as we must catch the hare before we can cook it," so we must get the gas before we can set fire to it, and avail ourselves of its culinary powers.

Now I consider this the gist of the scheme, the turning-point of its adaptation to domestic use.

The expense, however, of laying on gas generally in our houses, will, I fear, be a bar to its universal use for domestic purposes. The rich may enjoy it, but how are they who find it no easy matter, by the most rigid economy, to keep a house over their heads, to encounter the primary expense of pipes from the main, pipes to the kitchen, pipes to the various apartments requiring fire or light. Oh! the gasfitter's bill! Do, Sir, enlighten my mind upon this point. A SUBURBAN.

As the ideas of our "Suburban" correspondent, who probably sighs for water-pipes no less than for gas mains and branches, may represent the doubts of many more on the subject of the domestic use of gas, whether for lighting or for heating the poor man's dwelling, we will try to enlighten his mind on this point. He is one of those despondent geniuses, we fear, who, had he lived under the ancient draw-well system, would have regarded the project of supplying houses of every class in towns with water through pipes as a very "improbable" scheme. Yet private dwellings of all ranks have been so supplied, partly at the expense of the water companies, and partly at the expense of the landlords—both of whom must have at length found it for their private and particular interests to do so. Let our correspondent be consoled and comforted: every practicable scheme must have a beginning, however late in the day, and so must the domestic use of gas. But more than all this, the

domestic use of gas has already had a beginning, and London is in this respect as far behind some other towns throughout the country as its "suburban" districts are behind it so far as regards water-pipes and gas ones. In Glasgow, for instance, there are hundreds of workmen's dwellings already fitted up with gas pipes and burners for light, and why not for heat, so soon as the latter can be shown to be cheap enough and efficient for such a purpose? As it is, the fittings are all up when the poor man enters his dwelling: all he has to do is to pay for the article he consumes. On the south-east coast of England, too, and elsewhere through the country, the domestic use of gas, on similar principles, is already extending, so that it can no longer rank amongst "improbable schemes." As for the supposed decline of the coal interest, we leave that to the coalowners.

THE SHOP SUN-BLIND NUISANCE.

EVER and anon complaints are forwarded to us as to the dangerous and intolerable nature of this nuisance. We have just had two such complaints, one from a district surveyor, who points attention to the rather unaccountable circumstance that the Metropolitan Buildings Act appears to ignore the existence of sun-blinds as completely as if it had been passed in those antiquated times when leafy branches were the only sun-blinds used by our savage ancestors by way of parasol or palanquin. The surveyor, however, is not quite sure but that these nuisances might be brought under the head of projections extending over the public way, and so be swept off altogether as an irregularity. Formal complaints have been made to him in his official capacity by personal sufferers, as he himself has been, and he could not do a more grateful service to the public than to bring them under the power of the Act; for the clause of 10 & 11 Vict. (July 22nd, 1847) for regulating the police of towns, namely clause 28, appears to be a dead letter, having probably been altogether overlooked by the police authorities. Let us once more draw their special attention to that clause. It enacts "that every person who, to the obstruction, annoyance, or danger of passengers, places any blind, shade, covering, awning, or other projection over or along any footway (unless at least eight feet in height in every part thereof from the ground) shall be liable to a penalty of forty shillings for each offence." Here is a plentiful field of profit for some of that not much esteemed class of men, the informers, at least if a share of the "forty shillings" be legally theirs; and, at all events, surely the police ought to see to it without loss of time. Instead of being eight feet clear of the pavements most of them are not much more than five feet. We fear that some hurried passenger must be felled like an ox, however, ere this increasing nuisance be effectually put down.

LECTURE AT INVERNESS ON ARCHITECTURE.—Mr. Mackenzie, of Elgin, architect, on Friday in week before last, delivered a lecture on architecture to the members and friends of the Inverness Mechanics' Institution, in the Academy-hall there. In the concluding part of his lecture, Mr. Mackenzie made some remarks in vindication of his own profession from some of the aspersions too commonly thrown on it. If the architects of the present day, he said, were allowed, like the monks of the mediæval ages, years to mature their conceptions, and were hampered by no considerations of expense, they would produce buildings which would vie with, if they did not surpass, those which now attracted so much admiration; but when they had no voice in the selection of a site,—when they were tied down to a particular style,—when the period allotted them for the preparation of their plans was grudgingly extended to a few months,—and when the whole sum to which they were restricted did not amount to what would formerly have been expended in the formation of a window,—he did not see how any very magnificent results could be hoped for.

Notices of Books.

Rudimentary Astronomy; with illustrations. By the Rev. ROBERT MAIN, M.A., F.R.A.S. First Assistant at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. Weale, High Holborn. 1852. THIS perspicuous volume belongs to the series of rudimentary scientific works published by Mr. Weale, and which must now constitute a goodly little library. Besides the motive that must have induced the publisher to add a treatise on Astronomy, the author in this work has taken a course which has enabled him to steer clear, as far as possible, of other elementary treatises, more particularly of a descriptive order, by making his own more explanatory than descriptive.

The Practice of Embanking Lands from the Sea. By JOHN WIGGIN, F.G.S. Land Agent and Surveyor. Parts I. and II. Weale, High Holborn. 1852.

THIS volume, though uniform with the preceding in appearance, is not a mere rudimentary treatise for beginners. It contains much instructive matter of use to practical men, as well as to those unacquainted with the nature of sea-banks and the reclamation of lands from the sea, and whose attention may be drawn to the subject, either from the nature of their property, or with a view to the employment of their capital. The subject is one of considerable importance, and good may be expected to result from the publication of this treatise.

Miscellaneous.

IMPROVEMENTS IN BROADWAY, NEW YORK.—The principal improvements at present going on here appear to be in hotels and confectioners' shops. The Metropolitan Hotel is in an advanced state of progress. It will have 214 windows fronting the street. The marble front of the St. Nicholas is finished, and is said to produce a fine effect, were it not that the immense mass of rough red bricks, forming the sides of the building, do not harmonize with the white marble front. Paint or plaster, the *Home Journal* thinks, is much wanted, and is, perhaps, intended. There is several months' work still to be done to this edifice. The St. Denis, a quaint, original-looking building, opposite Grace Church, is approaching completion. The cornices and other settings-off are made not of stone, as they seem, but of a new and peculiar composition of sand and cement. It is, in fact, sand made over again into stone. There is one drawback to the utility of this composition—it will melt and run like molasses at a temperature of 212 degrees! The St. Denis, therefore, would present a singular appearance after a fire; but as the new material is used only as ornament, and nowhere as a support, it does not in the least affect the safety of the building. The hotels now in construction will be capable of accommodating scarcely less than 2,000 people; but they will relieve the pressure only temporarily. Mr. Astor, it is rumoured, intends to erect a very large hotel at the corner of Thirteenth-street and Broadway. Mr. Monot, of the New York Hotel, proposes to build another house of great extent at the corner of Twenty-third-street, on the site of "Corporal Thompson's." And Mr. Lafarge intends to construct a hotel, larger than either, on ground adjoining Bond-street House, having a front on Broadway, Amity, and Mercer-streets. The building will be commenced shortly after the 1st of May. There are also various other enterprises of the same character in agitation.—The Church of St. Thomas, so long the one venerable feature of Broadway, the old-fashioned walls of which the fire last year did not injure, is nearly ready again for service. The exterior has undergone slight alterations, which impart to the old church a somewhat lighter aspect.—The *Home Journal* complains of the telegraph posts which run along Broadway, and of the homo-ducts, as he calls them, erected by builders over street cellars, in progress of formation. Broadway, he remarks, is always to be, but never is, finished. The Russian pavement is spreading.